

**V. REMARKS**

The Final Office Action dated November 9, 2007, asserts that amended claims 1 and 4-6 are directed to an invention that is independent and/or distinct from the invention originally claimed. The Final Office Action notes that claims 1 and 4-6 are directed towards a structure of a gaming machine while claims 7-14 are directed towards a gaming machine comprising an internal lottery means to determine an internal lottery of a game with a random number at a predetermined timing, as stated in the original claims.

Claims 7-14 are now canceled and so that prosecution can be advanced by examination of pending claims 1 and 4-6.

The Office Action rejects claims 7-9 and 11 under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Weiss (U.S. Patent No. 6,164,645). The claims are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-9 and 11 (and perhaps claims 12-14) are rejected under 35 USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Weiss (U.S. Patent No. 6,164,645). The claims are canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-00 (presumptively, only claim 10) are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Weiss. The claim is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further

arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

Furthermore, for any instances in which the Examiner took Official Notice in the Office Action, Applicants expressly do not acquiesce to the taking of Official Notice, and respectfully request that the Examiner provide an affidavit to support the Official Notice taken in the next Office Action, as required by 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2) and MPEP § 2144.03.

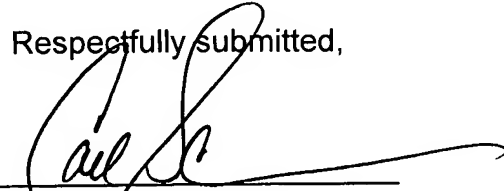
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

  
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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal  
Request for Continued Examination